

MEDIA ALERT

Weinberg/Newton Gallery

EXHIBITION

House

EXHIBITION DATES

January 27 –
March 25, 2017

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, January 27, 2017,
5–8 PM

LOCATION

Weinberg/Newton Gallery
300 W Superior Street, Suite 203
Chicago, IL 60654

HOURS

Mon – Sat 10 AM – 5 PM

VISIT US ONLINE

weinbergnewtongallery.com

ALL MEDIA REQUESTS

Please contact
Claire Arctander
312 529 5090
claire@d-weinberg.com

High-resolution images of artwork are available upon request.

OVERVIEW

Weinberg/Newton Gallery is proud to partner with art collaborative Red Line Service for our upcoming winter exhibition *House*. Red Line Service works with Chicagoans experiencing homelessness to create cultural and intellectual programming. Its co-founders, curator and art historian Rhoda Rosen and artist Billy McGuinness, will collaborate with the gallery and other organizations committed to ending homelessness to mount an exhibition as well as a robust programming calendar with the intention of opening and expanding critical dialogues about poverty, social responsibility, and culture.

PARTNER

Red Line Service creates cultural experiences for and with Chicagoans concerned about and/or currently in transition. In partnership with organizations providing direct services and those advocating for policy development, Red Line Service strives to stimulate growth and change for participants in transition, as well as their housed counterparts, and to transform the cultural institutions that harbor its programs. The project insists and demonstrates that communal artistic and intellectual enrichment awakens imaginative possibilities in all people, encouraging them to envision, aspire to, and build alternative realities. Red Line Service reframes art as a broad social justice endeavor by establishing a practice that values civic engagement over artifact and eschews commodification. redlineservice.org

ABOUT WEINBERG/NEWTON GALLERY

Weinberg/Newton Gallery is an exhibition space with a mission to educate and inform the public on social justice issues. Through artwork and programming, the gallery provides an engaging environment for discourse on critical contemporary issues facing our communities. Connecting artists with social justice organizations, the gallery works to drive change and cultivate a culture of consciousness.

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request.

Weinberg/Newton Gallery is proud to partner with the art collaborative Red Line Service for our winter exhibition *House*. Red Line Service works with Chicagoans experiencing or concerned about homelessness to reframe art as a broad social justice endeavor. Committed to ending homelessness, Red Line Service co-founders, curator and art historian Rhoda Rosen and artist Billy McGuinness, have teamed up with the gallery to mount an exhibition as well as a robust programming calendar with the intention of opening and expanding critical dialogues about poverty, social responsibility and culture.

In keeping with its ongoing effort to reframe art as a broad social justice endeavor, Red Line Service will use the bulk of the exhibition budget to house two Chicagoans currently experiencing homelessness for a full year. The crux of the exhibition therefore remains hidden, private, and off-site — and extends past the on-site show's designated duration. In this spirit, the title of the exhibition is the verb, not the noun, form of the word *house*.

The gallery space will serve as a platform for a series of events, fostering rich exchange between various stakeholders concerned with homelessness, including Chicagoans in transition, policy-makers, advocacy groups, direct service organizations, social practice artists, and gallery visitors. An audio piece, a video piece, and a handful of objects and images related to solving Chicago's housing crisis will be on display.

House will consider what forms solidarity, care, and justice in relation to the housing crisis in Chicago might take. It will also question whether it is possible to engage with people in transition within the context of a cross-cultural and cross-class art project.

LOCATION

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300 W Superior Street, Suite 203
Chicago, IL 60654

All events are free and open to the public.

CONTACT

312 529 5090
info@weinbergnewton
gallery.com

HOUSE

Red Line Service's cultural practice is premised on the belief that solutions to poverty require imagination, will, and the cultivation of communities in which the moral responsibility of all people to each other is a founding assumption. The heart of its work, therefore, is the implementation of these three elements, in essence the enactment of possible solutions and alternative ways of being. In this spirit, the exhibition programming of *House* is active, and offers possibilities for all audiences to exercise care for one another. Become a part of the Red Line Service community at:

HOUSE OPENING: POTLUCK

Friday, January 27, 5-8pm

We've been to countless gallery openings and we've got the formula down. Hop from one to the next and enjoy the free wine and cheese as an appetizer before going out to the real dinner. The *House* opening event, by contrast, aims to be the destination. Bring a dish to share, sit at our table, and connect with a wider community, including Chicagoans experiencing homelessness and those who are housed.

THE HOMESTRETCH

Thursday, February 9, 4:30-7:30pm

We will view the Kartemquin-produced documentary *The Homestretch*, which follows three Chicago teens experiencing homelessness as they fight to stay in school, graduate, and build a future. A panel discussion will follow the screening.

A HOUSEWARMING PARTY

Friday, March 3, 5-8pm

The *House* exhibition budget was used to provide housing for a year to two Chicagoans experiencing homelessness. Let's welcome them to the neighborhood! Join us for a party, and bring an item needed to furnish this home, buy a gift from the Housewarming registry (see event page on our website for link) or make a contribution to the Housewarming fund at Fractured Atlas (fracturedatlas.org).

HOMELESSNESS IS A CRIME!

Wednesday, March 8, 6:30-8pm

Join us for an evening with Alan Mills, executive director of the Uptown People's Law Center, who in addition to a long career of advocating on behalf of prisoners, also defends Chicagoans experiencing homelessness. Learn from him about the ways Chicagoans experiencing homelessness are criminalized in our city, hear about the laws that most impact them, learn about their rights, and how you can support their efforts for housing justice.

TAKING ACTION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, March 16, 6-7:30pm

Gather for a conversation about how to end homelessness in Chicago and Illinois. Hear from advocates and practitioners from Housing Action IL, All Chicago, Renaissance Social Services, and a graduate of the Corporation for Supportive Housing's Speak Up program. We'll discuss how anyone can join in to help make sure that everyone in our city and state has a stable, affordable, safe place to call home.



RED LINE SERVICE creates cultural experiences for and with Chicagoans concerned about and/or currently in transition.* It insists and demonstrates that communal artistic and intellectual explorations catalyze the visionary potential within all people. In partnership with organizations providing direct services and those advocating for policy development, Red Line Service strives to facilitate effectual exchange about the conditions underlying homelessness. At the same time, it spurs growth amongst all program participants and the very institutions in which its programs take place.

The term *service* in the art collective's name functions in a skeptical, self-critical manner. Rather than advancing a unidirectional mode of *service*, Red Line Service embraces the dynamic exchange that accompanies the human

conditions of asking for, receiving, and offering help. In solidarity, it works to reshape our society into a more connected – more loving – community of care.

Red Line Service stands in favor of a creative culture that bumps up against and becomes the lived experience of everyday life. The work of art lies not in the programming itself, but rather in the enactment of belonging and the insistence on modeling a radical human unity. What characterizes Red Line Service interventions and makes them radical, even within the terms of socially engaged art, is that rather than simply point to systemic failure they find and enact solutions.

*Red Line Service uses *transition*, the preferred term of many of its participants, to affirm that homelessness is a temporary set of circumstances and not a permanent state of being.



BILLY MCGUINNESS is an artist, educator, and facilitator of art-making experiences. He is co-founder of Red Line Service, lecturer at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and director of the Just Art program at Cook County Jail. He has been an artist in residence at Studio 3325 and ACRE. McGuinness earned an MFA in Studio Art from School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BA in Film and Television at University of California, Los Angeles.

RHODA ROSEN is an art historian and curator currently serving as associate professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has also taught at University of Illinois at Chicago. She is co-founder of Red Line Service and curator of exhibitions at the Spertus Museum and Gallery 400 in Chicago. Rosen holds a PhD in Art History from University of Illinois at Chicago and an MA and BA from University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

IMAGE: RED LINE SERVICE SUMMER FESTIVAL, SMART MUSEUM OF ART, AUGUST 13, 2016



Article 25

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

RED LINE SERVICE asks: **What if we are all interdependent?** By this question we don't mean to explore whether caring for each and every member of a community is the only way for a community to thrive (although that too), but what if individual subjectivity, individual humanity is defined in relation to others? Does that proposition thwart the liberal conceit that an individual can be defined as an autonomous, independent being, responsible first to herself? If so, **it is very possible that what defines us as human is our ability to ask for, accept, and offer help.** For socially engaged artists who want to redress injustices, this raises significant questions regarding for whom the artistic intervention is designed: the maker, the art audience, the community engaged? **Who is helped most?** It also raises aesthetic questions about the implicit power of representation and the spaces in which it occurs to reproduce inequality. How and where might an artistic and curatorial intervention pose these questions of power, privilege, and access as well as of representation and its limits? Our exhibition, *House*, not only points to the problem of homelessness, exploring and understanding it - it also drives actual, tangible change.

House is the result of many absorbing, profound, and provocative conversations between the Weinberg/Newton Gallery team, Red Line Service, and Chicagoans in transition. As a result, *House* represents a fully integrated partnership. Red Line Service is spending almost the entirety of its exhibition budget to provide housing to Chicagoans experiencing homelessness. With the most substantial component of *House* existing outside of public view, the in-gallery exhibition, working with almost no budget, serves as a platform for an exchange between various people concerned with housing issues. In organizing *House* and its programs, Red Line Service aims to shed light on the intricacies of homelessness while simultaneously allocating resources and energies to make a direct impact.

IMAGE: ARTICLE 25, THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, 1948

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www.weinbergnewtongallery.com
FACEBOOK: Weinberg/Newton Gallery
TUMBLR: weinbergnewtongallery.tumblr.com
INSTAGRAM: @weinberg_newton_gallery

HISTORY

Weinberg/Newton Gallery originally debuted in 2006 as David Weinberg Collection, a contemporary art gallery in Chicago's River North neighborhood.

In 2011, the space shifted to an artist-run studio featuring Weinberg's own photography work and changed its name to David Weinberg Photography.

In 2016, David Weinberg Photography became Weinberg/Newton Gallery. The change reflected and acknowledged the influence of attorney and philanthropist Jerry Newton on the gallery's work, particularly in building relationships with partner non-profit organizations. Newton actively has been involved with organizations including the ACLU of Illinois, Human Rights Watch, and Personal PAC for more than four decades. Together, David Weinberg and Jerry Newton have guided the Weinberg/Newton Family Foundation since 2009.

A SPACE FOR ARTISTS AND ISSUES

In addition to generating revenue for non-profit organization partners, Weinberg/Newton Gallery helps to further their causes by providing access to the space for outreach and education opportunities, as well as fundraising events.

Artists appreciate a space that embraces their commitment to social justice.

Weinberg/Newton Gallery is a place for engagement, building initiatives toward community and educational development through panel discussions, artist talks, educational events, and more.

Newton and Weinberg continue to maintain a steadfast commitment to social justice issues and the organizations that advocate on behalf of this work.